MACEO MONTOYA is a writer, artist and assistant professor in the Chicana and Chicano Studies department and novelist JACINDA TOWNSEND just arrived at UC Davis as a creative writing assistant professor in the English department.

Montoya’s first novel, *The Scoundrel and the Optimist*, was awarded the International Latino Book Award for Best First Book. Other works include the novel *The Deportation of Wopper Barraza, Letters to the Poet from His Brother*, a book combining images, prose poems and essays, and the novella and short story collection *You Must Fight Them*. In September his *Chicano Movement for Beginners* was published. Montoya’s artworks have been shown internationally.

Townsend is author of the 2014 novel *Saint Monkey*, which won widespread acclaim. The book follows the lives of two young African American women from rural Kentucky in the 1950s. It explores their thorny friendship over many years as one goes to New York to pursue her musical dreams while the other remains behind. A native of Kentucky, Townsend was previously a broadcast journalist and attorney.

**Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.**
**Free and open to the public**

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